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Construction Underway on NC Facility

Construction has commenced on the new mid-Atlantic home of Bausch-American Towers and IMS American. The new 30,000-square foot waterfront complex, located at Jarrett Bay in Beaufort, NC, will house an ultra-modern facility for tower fabrication, a hard top manufacturing bay, a state-of-the-art showroom for marine electronics and entertainment systems, and two stories of corporate offices.

The foundation has been poured and the walls are being erected in stages. Once the walls have been completed, the center sections will be set and tied together so that an overhead crane can be mounted to the support beams of the structure. This multi-directional crane will be used to assist in tower construction, eliminating the need for scaffolding. Operated by remote control, it will be able to pick up large tower sections and set them in place for welding.

"Our goal is to increase efficiency and safety, while reducing production time," said Project Manager John Resnik. "We will be in full operation by spring."



Get to Know ACY's New Hull Foreman John Carver



ACY's New Hull Construction Foreman John Carver only planned to visit Stuart long enough to retrieve some tools from his cousin so he could start a job in Hollywood, FL. The year was 1970. The van and a motorcycle he arrived with are long gone, but John is still here and ACY is thankful. Here is his story:

"I was on my way from the Keys to Stuart when my van started making all kinds of funny noises, barely limping into

Stuart," he reminisced. "I was just a kid getting ready to start a new job, so, of course, I didn't have any money. Well, I found a gas station at Confusion Corner that agreed to let me work off the cost of the repairs to the van. I ended up working there for four or five months. In my spare time, I would go fishing. At that time, I loved to fish more than anything. One day, I got word that a charter captain by the name of Donny Chason needed a mate. I talked to him and Donny was willing to give me a chance; but there was only one problem – every time I went out in the ocean I got seasick. So Donny loaded me up with

Dramamine, and I ended up working for him on the *Sundance* for five years.

"The *Sundance* was a 38-footer that Donny customized and outfitted with twin 8V53 Detroit diesels. We always thought she was a pretty fast boat, until we witnessed one of the early cold-molded boats fly past us like we were standing still. Well, Donny became obsessed. He found out everything he could about cold-molded construction, and within a year, he was building his own boats under the name of Monterey Marine. Most of the prominent local builders were in the process of

continued on next page

Get to know John Carver ... *continued*

switching from frame construction to cold-molded fabrication at that time, and his goal was to be one step ahead of them. The first Monterey built was also named *Sundance*, and I fished on her for several years.

"Everything changed, however, during a trip to Cancun when I met the woman who was to become my wife. Once we were married, we made plans to start a family, so I took a job at Monterey as a carpenter for the insurance and steady pay, while still fishing on the side. After about five years, I began to take on more responsibility at the yard, so I had to let the fishing go. Then, there was a transition period between owners for about two years when Monterey stopped building new hulls and I moved into service work.

"In 1996, Dominick LaCombe and the Chouest family purchased the facility and it became the new home of American Custom Yachts. Since then, I've worked on every ACY hull.

"I'm grateful to ACY for having the insight to let us try new techniques," John added. Many boat builders stay with the same method even when it has become outdated. ACY has always stayed on the cutting edge."



Carver inspects the fairing of the new FREEDOM in this recent photo.



Hull Construction Foreman John Carver oversees the early stages of construction of the new 68-foot FREEDOM, monitoring the fabrication of the keel and stringers.

ACY Acquires Automated Defibrillator

ACY recently acquired a state-of-the-art emergency lifesaving device called the ZOLL AED Plus®. This computerized automated defibrillator is programmed to issue a series of voice prompts and visual indicators guiding the rescuer through a resuscitation sequence that may include defibrillation and/or cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

"We are currently conducting voluntary training sessions for all employees, and mandatory training for all managers," said ACY Health and Safety Director Pat Walsh. "This unit is self-contained, error-proof and easy to use. It conducts a self test, and then guides the user step by step through the resuscitation process. Because it is light and portable, it can also be stored at a central location and transported to any location in the facility in minutes. Another benefit is that the data is digitally monitored so that it can be easily uploaded to medical computers. Thank goodness, we haven't had the need to use it; but if we do, we'll be ready," Walsh added.



ACY Director of Health and Safety Pat Walsh demonstrates the new ZOLL AED Plus® automated defibrillator.

ACY Employs New 35-Ton Travelift®

ACY recently engaged its new 35-ton Travelift®, taking advantage of two haul-out bays recently opened to keep up with the growing demand for service work and boat storage. The new lift reduces haul-out time by accommodating smaller vessels; and because of its smaller size – compared to ACY’s massive 150-ton lift – it can fit more vessels per square foot in existing storage areas.

On its inaugural mission, ACY’s new 35-ton Travelift® transports the 40-foot Luhrs DOL FIN ADDICT for launching.



FISHING REPORT



Team LaCombe Battles the Blues

Fishing aboard the ACY65 FREEDOM with ACY President Dominick LaCombe at the helm, daughter Darra and Dominick Jr. saw plenty of action in late June while exploring the plentiful waters of the Dominican Republic and St. Thomas.

Participating in D.R.’s *XLI Torneo Internacional de Pesca*, Dom Jr. released a blue marlin estimated at 325 pounds, while Darra released a pair of white marlin. Then, during a fun fishing expedition off St. Thomas, Darra bested her big brother’s catch by releasing a blue estimated at 400 pounds. Perhaps it was payback time!

Angler Darra LaCombe fights her first blue marlin off St. Thomas.

ACY Turning Heads in St. Thomas



Photo by Richard Gibson

A fleet of ACY sportfishermen are turning heads off St. Thomas while pursuing the island’s famous blue marlin bite. The fleet includes the BLACK GOLD, FLOW CONTROL, FREEDOM, FREE ENTERPRISE and the QUE MAS.

C-CONDO is Home Base for BXRL



Photo by Sam Talbert



The 103-foot ACY mother ship C-CONDO is stationed on St. Thomas as a support base for Team FREEDOM in their quest for the 2006 ESPN2 *Billfishing Xtreme Release League* championship. ACY’s 36-foot Contender MOJO is also on hand as a transport. This seaworthy craft

proved a big help recently by assisting with an emergency boat inspection on the nearby island of Tortola.



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New Electronics Specialists Bring 40 Years of Combined Experience to IMS

Two heavy hitters in the marine electronics industry recently joined the team at IMS American.

Greg McIntyre, appointed the new IMS Operations Manager, has over 20 years of experience in both residential and marine electronics. Greg has worked extensively overseas with some of the world's premier yacht manufacturers like Perini Navi Yachts and Benetti Yachts in Italy and Luursen Yachts in Germany.

Steve Delaney has joined IMS as a sales and engineering specialist, bringing with him a vast knowledge of marine navigational systems. Steve has also logged two decades in the industry, most recently as the owner of Navitronix Systems in Fort Lauderdale.



Greg McIntyre and Steve Delaney

Florida Notes



The new Bertram 67 is equipped with the latest in Furuno® components including black box radar and sounder units, a digital depth system and a 15" sunlight readable display. Additional components include: a Simrad® autopilot; a Northstar® 972 GPS WAAS plotting system; Icom® VHF radios; a KVH Trackvision® TV-at-sea and Trackphone®; a Panasonic® phone system; and an Ocean Systems Deck Scan® camera system.

In preparation for its Ft. Lauderdale debut, IMS recently installed a show-stopping marine electronics package on the new Bertram 67 for Allied Richard Bertram Marine Group. IMS has also contracted with Gilman Yacht Sales of North Palm Beach to provide the audio-video and navigational system components for a new 76-foot Horizon motoryacht. The installation will take place in Taiwan; the vessel will then travel to ACY for wiring and final commissioning.

North Carolina Notes



IMS North Carolina Operations Manager Michael Garrett reports booming business in the tar-heel state. IMS recently performed the first east coast installation of Furuno's new MaxSea® navigational computer software on a new Cabo 32-foot express boat, as well as complete installations on a pair of new Cabo 35s. Two 28-foot B&D center console boats were also outfitted with full electronics, as well as a Jarrett Bay 32.

Product Profile

IMS American is proud to introduce the latest in Glass Bridge Displays™ by Nauticomp®. User-friendly and unique by design, Nauticomp's new displays are available in 12", 15", 19", and 21.3" sizes,

with multiple displays operated by a single menu controller. These waterproof displays offer the largest viewable area in the smallest chassis frame available, plus a long list of special features, including "dim to red" and "dim to black" options, and auto-scaling to any resolution up to 1600 x 1200.





FOX Welcomes New Home Entertainment Consultant Joe Loricchio

Joe Loricchio has joined FOX Audio Video as a home entertainment consultant. Loricchio, a former engineer for Exxon, comes to FOX from PALS, Inc. of Tequesta, where he oversaw audio-video sales and installations for customers in many of the northern Palm Beaches' finest neighborhoods, including Jupiter Island, PGA National, Frenchman's Creek, Admiral's Cove and Jonathan's Landing. Prior to moving to Florida, Joe owned and operated a business in Springfield, NJ that specialized in high end audio-video and security systems.

Product Profile

Home Theater Master MX850® Universal Remote



If you're like most people, many of your audio-video components come from different manufacturers. This, of course, means taking command of an army of remotes. Well, thanks to Home Theater Master, there is now an affordable solution to simplify your entertain-

ment mission: the MX850® universal remote control.

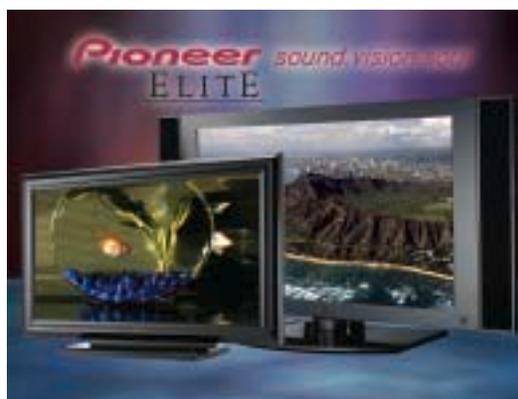
The MX850 makes it a breeze to operate up to 20 components with a single handheld remote. Its advanced radio frequency operation provides a range up to 100 feet, even working through walls and doors; and it comes with easy-to-use Windows-based PC software with program codes for up to 1,500 different components. The MX-850 is also equipped with a smart memory backup system that retains programmed memory for up to ten years. So, if you're ready to give your platoon of old remotes an honorable discharge, give us a call and we'll help you put the MX850 into active service.

Audio-Video Notes

The FOX team has been busy outfitting two sprawling local residences with the latest in automated entertainment and home security.

Multiple Pioneer Elite® plasma TVs were installed in a 15,000-square foot home located in Port Sewall, FL, along with a surround sound home theater system in the family room. All components are operated by Crestron® touch panel controls, including a multi-camera surveillance system.

In a 25,000-square foot residence located in Sailfish Point on Hutchinson Island, FOX is installing new phone, computer and security systems, a cable TV and satellite distribution system, and an elaborate audio-video system. Highlights include a keypad controlled LCD TV on the outside patio; separate LCD TVs in "his" and "hers" baths; a 61-inch Pioneer Elite® plasma TV in the family room; and multiple surveillance cameras tied into a digital video recorder.



Ready to broadcast today's high-definition images, Pioneer Elite® plasma TVs are available in 43", 50" and 61" sizes with detachable speaker systems.

BAT Florida Highlights



BAT topped off Bertram's new 67' showpiece with an eye-catching custom tower.



A 31 Contender Fisharound is being outfitted with a low profile tower and hard top, along with riggers and tower controls



A lightweight hard top is being fabricated for a 40-foot Cabo.



This unique half tower was installed on a Dorado 30.

BAT North Carolina Highlights



This new Albermarle 41, commissioned for Jarrett Bay Yacht Sales, sports a new custom full tower.



A new half tower nears completion on a new B&D sportfisherman.

ACY Work In Progress

A SAMPLING OF PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY



ISLANDER, a 53' Maran Powercat, is visiting ACY for a full repaint and a complete bottom job, as well as hydrofoil repair and covering board maintenance. Bausch American Towers will also perform tower repairs and install a new bow rail.



ACY will perform a hull and bottom repaint and repair cabin leaks on the *DREAM AWHILE*, a 36' Hinckley picnic boat.



JOYFUL SPIRIT, a 65' Ocean, will undergo extensive running gear repair.



The ACY 72 *DON TEO* is receiving routine bottom maintenance, as well as fresh transom varnish and a black mask repaint



The *BLUE ANGEL*, a 42' GRAND BANKS trawler (on left), will undergo a fuel tank replacement. The 61' Viking *SURVEILLANCE* (on right) will receive routine bottom maintenance, along with repairs to the davit system and trim tabs. ACY will also perform minor rub rail and gel coat repairs, then wax and buff the entire vessel.



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COMING IN OUR NEXT ISSUE **ACY PREPARES FOR NEW PAINT BAY**

Generating Good Will

In response to the tragic events of Hurricane Katrina, ACY wasted no time sending a tractor trailer full of generators, tarps and roofing materials to employees of Edison Chouest Offshore in Galliano, LA. While thankfully spared by the brunt of the storm, ECO's Port Fourchon facility still suffered considerable damage and many of its employees in Louisiana and Mississippi were displaced from their homes. Our hearts go out to all the victims of this catastrophe. We urge everyone to assist in whatever way they can.



The shipment included a massive 750 kW generator that ECO sent to ACY last year in the wake of Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne.

ASK THE YACHT DOCTORS[®]

This new feature answers commonly asked questions posed to ACY regarding boat construction, maintenance and repair. Please fax your question to 772-288-4993, or e-mail it to acy@gate.net, in care of the "Yacht Doctors[®]." If your question is selected, we'll send you an ACY T-shirt. (To protect your privacy, your name will not be used.) The doctors are always in!

Q: What is the correct application of deadwood in marine construction and repair?

YD: Well, this certainly is not a dead issue. Whether for a repair or new construction, there is usually quite a bit of discussion about what material works best. At ACY, our deadwood of choice is mahogany.

In a repair situation, if we are working on a cored boat, we dig out the cored material and replace it with solid mahogany, especially in areas where there is going to be a lot of compression. Or, for instance, if we are replacing a cockpit cleat, we affix a piece of mahogany as deadwood, backed by a brass plate so that the cleat can be tapped and permanently secured with through-bolts.

In new boat construction, a good example would be when we cut away for the struts with a router, and then attach the deadwood to the stringers. We use a minimum of three-inch mahogany as deadwood, then fasten with through-bolts and stainless steel backing plates, where applicable.



You'll find some boatyards and builders using substandard material for deadwood, such as plywood. We have found that the use of plywood can invite water intrusion because you have multiple layers of porous wood grain exposed if the bedding compound breaks down over time.